

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION
RFQ-RT-03-00359
FETAL EXAMINATIONS

STATEMENT OF WORK

The vendor shall process fetuses as necessary and perform soft tissue and skeletal exams on 113 litters of rat fetuses (approximately 12 fetuses/litter). The dams were exposed during various stages of gestation to ambient air or concentrated particles from ambient air and constitutes 4 treatment groups. The litters were taken at term and will be provided to the vendor. Half of each litter will be in 70% ethanol (eviscerated, skinned and fat pads removed) ready to be stained and examined for skeletal anatomy, and half will be in Bodian's solution ready for soft tissue examination. Soft tissue exams are to include all internal organs, with particular attention to cardiac/great vessel anatomy. Skeletons of half of the fetuses are to be single stained with alizarin red and evaluated for skeletal physiology.

Line Item 0001 - Skeletal Examinations

Vendor will receive fetuses from EPA (approximately half the fetuses in each of 113 Sprague-Dawley rat litters) in 70% ethanol. Each litter will be identified with a number, but the individual fetuses within the litters will not be uniquely identified. These fetuses are to be processed using the vendor's method of choice for single staining the skeletons with alizarin red to visualize the ossified skeleton. (See Attachment A for an example of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that would be typical for these Skeletal Examinations.)

A full examination of these skeletons will be performed with the examiner(s) blind to treatment group, and the resulting data statistically analyzed to test for treatment effects. After examinations are complete, treatment group identities will be provided.

Line Item 0002 - Visceral Examinations

Vendor will receive from EPA fetuses (approximately half the fetuses in each of 113 Sprague-Dawley rat litters) in Bodian's solution. Each litter will be identified with a number, but the individual fetuses within the litters will not be uniquely identified. These fetuses are to be examined using the vendor's method of choice for soft tissue examinations of preserved fetuses, with special attention to the heart and great vessels. (See Attachment B for an example of an SOP that would be typical for these Visceral Examinations.)

The examination of these fetuses will be performed with the examiner(s) blind to treatment group, and the resulting data statistically analyzed to test for treatment effects. After examinations are complete, treatment group identities will be provided.

DELIVERABLES

Deliverables required under the purchase order will be the raw data (consisting of a listing of anomalies) for each individual fetus, as well as tabularized summary data and a brief narrative of the contractor's interpretation of the data. Data for Skeletal and Visceral Examinations shall be shown separately, and shall be submitted both electronically and by hard copies.

All work under this purchase order shall be completed by no later than four (4) months after initial receipt of the fetuses by the vendor.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Government intends to award a single contract to the responsible offeror whose technically acceptable quotation represents the best overall value to the Government based on the evaluation of Technical Capability, Past Performance, and Price. Only those offerors submitting technically acceptable quotations shall be considered for award. Following is a description of each evaluation criterion, including information which must be included with the initial response:

TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

Proposals must demonstrate ability of the vendor to meet the requirements set forth in the Statement of Work. Proposals must include sufficient material (such as narrative of technical ability, publications of work, brochures, etc.) to permit the government to determine that the vendor can meet the requirements set forth in the Statement of Work. Any specific variances from the Statement of Work shall be addressed by the offeror with respect to how the offeror's proposal provides alternative equivalence. Failure of an offeror to demonstrate that proposed alternate methodology will meet the Statement of Work requirements shall render the offeror ineligible for further consideration for award.

PAST PERFORMANCE

Proposals shall be evaluated on performance under existing and prior (within past 3 years) contracts/subcontracts for work similar to that described in the Statement of Work. The Government's evaluation shall focus on the quality of past performance and level of customer satisfaction. For each contract/subcontract identified, the offeror shall include a brief synopsis which includes the date the work was performed, the client for whom the work was performed (included client name and telephone number), and a description of the work performed.

PRICE

Firm, fixed prices for Line Items 0001 and 0002 shall be provided. The Government reserves the right to require additional pricing information if necessary to determine that the proposed prices are reasonable.

AWARD

Award will be made to the responsible offeror whose offer is determined to be the best overall value to the government, price and other factors considered. Technical Capability, Past Performance, and Price are of equal importance.